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Message Text

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12
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AGR-05 OMB-01 /076 W
---------- 127518
R 110805Z JUN 75
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9539
INFO AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL IZMIR
CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GE AWAGA-G
CINCUSAFE SEMBACH AB GE DPC
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE DP LGP

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, PINT, TU
SUBJ: AEGEAN AREAWIDE GENERAL STRIKE CALLED FOR JUNE 13

BEGIN SUMMARY: CONFEDERATION OF TURKISH TRADE UNIONS (TURK-IS) AFFILIATES IN THE AEGEAN AREA (IZMIR AND ENVIRONS) HAVE BEEN CALLED TO PARTICIPATE IN A GENERAL STRIKE ON JUNE 13 FROM 0800 TO 1400. PURPOSE OF STRIKE IS TO PROTEST ALLEGED HARDNOSED ATTITUDE OF EMPLOYERS IN AREA, PARTICULARLY IN TEXTILE, EARTH, STONE AND POTTERY INDUSTRIES WHERE LOCKOUTS HAVE AND ARE TAKING PLACE. SIX-HOUR STRIKE PROBABLY WILL NOT BE NEARLY 100 PERCENT EFFECTIVE. END SUMMARY.

1. THE PRESIDENTIAL COUNCIL OF TURK-IS MET ON JUNE 5 AND 6 AND AMONG OTHER BUSINESS DECIDED TO CALL A GENERAL STRIKE IN THE AEGEAN AREA WHERE THERE HAD BEEN LOCKOUTS IN THE TEXTILE INDUSTRY AND WHERE 4,300 WORKERS ARE CURRENTLY LOCKED OUT IN THE EARTH, STONE AND POTTERY INDUSTRY. DURING A RECENT WORKERS ASSEMBLY MEETING IN IZMIR (EMBASSY'S A-56, APRIL 28) TURK-IS
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PRESIDENT, SENATOR HALI TUNC, PROMISED THE PARTICIPANTS THAT

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UNLESS THE EMPLOYERS IN THE AREA RELENTED, THAT TURK-IS WOULD SPONSOR A GENERAL STRIKE. HE HAS NOW BEEN CALLED TO FULFILL HIS PROMISE.

2. AT THE PRESIDENTIAL COUNCIL MEETING THERE WAS SOME DISCUSSION TO THE EFFECT THAT A GENERAL STRIKE OF SUCH A LIMITED NATURE AND PURPOSE SHOULD NOT BE CALLED. THE PRESIDENTIAL COUNCIL WILL MEET IN IZMIR TODAY, JUNE 11, TO TAKE FINAL DECISIONS AND DECIDE ABOUT EXPANDING THE PURPOSE OF THE GENERAL STRIKE (SEVERANCE PAY MATTERS, LARGER SOCIAL SECURITY PENSIONS, RIGHT OF CIVIL SERVANTS TOSTRIKE, ETC.). SOME UNIONS MAY NOT BE SATISFIED WITH THE LIMITED NATURE OF THE PROPOSED GENERAL STRIKE AND THEY MAY HAVE ONLY TOKEN PARTICIPATION OR MAY BACK OUT AT THE LAST MINUTE.

3. THE PRESIDENT OF THE DEFENSE WORKERS UNION WILL ALSO PARTICIPATE IN THE PRESIDENTIAL COUNCIL MEETING IN IZMIR. HE HAS TOLD US THAT HE WOULD USE THE OPPORTUNITY TO BRIEF THE AMERICAN WORKSITES CONCERNING THE NATURE OF THE GENERAL STRIKE AND TO SEE HOW HE CAN PARTICIPATE WITH THE LEAST POSSIBLE ADVERSE EFFECTS ON OPERATIONS AT THESE WORKSITES. ACCORDINGLY, PARTICIPATION BY THIS UNION MAY ALSO BE VERY LIMITED.

4. COMMENT: WITH SOME RELUCTANCE TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS REGIONAL GENERAL STRIKE BY CONSERVATIVE TRADE UNION LEADERS CLOSE TO PRIME MINISTER DEMIREL'S JUSTICE PARTY AND BY SOME SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC TRADE UNION LEADERS WITHIN TURK-IS, TUNC MAY BE EMBARRASSED BY RELTIVELY WEAK PARTICIPATION. HE FEELS HE HAS TO DEMONSTRATE TO EMPLOYER GROUPS AND TO THE GOVERNMENT THAT TURK-IS IS UNHAPY WITH THE REPORTED CLOSE ASSOCIATION BETWEEN BUSINESS AND THE DEMIREL GOVERNMENT.

THE GENERAL STRIKE LIMITED TO THE AEGEAN REGION WAS DECIDED UPON FOR TWO REASONS: (1) THE LOCKOUTS TOOK PLACE THERE, AND (2) MARTIAL LAW STILL EXISTS IN FOUR OF 57 PROVINCES, BUT NOT IZMIR. TURK-IS DOES NOT WANT TO TANGLE ON THE LOCKOUT ISSUE WITH MARTIAL LAW AUTHORITIES IN THOSE FOUR PROVINCES. ALSO, NATIONWIDE GENERAL STRIKES IN TURKEY ARE PROHIBITED BY LAW, BUT TURK-IS MAY GET AWAY WITH IT ON A REGIONAL BASIS. TUNC WILL UNDOUBTEDLY TAKE FULL RESPONSIBILITY, AND HE HAS PARLIA-
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MENTARY IMMUNITY.
BERGUS

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NNN

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TAGS: ELAB, PINT, TU
To: STATE
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